found, they would be regularised. I trust that the instructions issued will be followed more carefully by the revenue authorities, seeing that they will have more time at their disposal in future.

In regard to demarcation, you say that a stone costs only five *chuckrams*, but that you are charged Rs. 5 for it. I think that there is a certain amount of exaggeration in this. There are two courses open to the holder of the land. If he is willing to plant his own stone, he is allowed to do so. It is only when he does not produce his stone that the land records staff uses the departmental stone and levies from the holder the price of the stone, cost of transmission, labour for planting and cost of supervision. It may perhaps be that in your taluk certain lands are liable to be submerged under water for a certain period of the year and the stones have to be five feet high. I do not think that you can get a stone five feet long for five *chackrams*; it must cost much more.

In regard to land revenue, you have made astoundingly original proposals. You say that Tahsildars and Peishkars are not necessary. If your proposal is pushed to its logical conclusion, the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Dewan may also be said to be not necessary. Your picture is an ideal condition of things, when people could manage all their affairs themselves. I am afraid you are looking in vain for that golden age.

20. Public and private Markets in Travancore.

Mr. Kanakku Tampi Chempakaraman Sankaran (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said that the chief subject on which he proposed to speak was the levy of fees on articles brought to the evening bazaars. He said that no fees should be levied on the petty articles brought for sale in those evening bazaars. The matter had been represented at the eighteenth session of the Assembly also and the Dewan had then promised to consider it carefully. The Member pointed out that it was the poor people and the day labourers that were most affected by the levy of such fees. Articles such as a cocoanut or two eggs were being taken to those bazaars by those who had to purchase their daily salt and chilly with the proceeds of the sale of those things and it was indeed hard to squeeze a sum of four *cash* out of those poor people. The Market Rules, isssued in 1097, allowed only 2 *cash* for each hand load, but there was hardly any instance in which any sum lower than four *cash* was levied in the evening bazaars. Those who suffered from those oppressive fees could not raise any complaint lest they should have to starve. The Member submitted that in Travancore where an expenditure of Rs. 2 crores was being incurred every year it was not necessary to levy such an impost on the poor, and he implored the Dewan to visit one of those bazaars in the course of his tours, in which case he would be convinced of the reasonableness of the plea. The one reason why so many people applied for licenses to hold private evening bazaars in their own lands was to make enormous profit by oppressing the poor. The Member further pointed out that the cause of all rivalry and dispute between the several castes and sects in the Southern Division lay in their efforts to establish markets of their own. The statutory right that the applicants for licenses obtained in case no order was passed on their application within 60 days helped them in such efforts. Such a right ought to be stopped and it should be laid down that no market should be opened before the applicant actually received a license. A good deal of the evil could be removed if markets could be opened, as far as possible, on Government sites. The principles of sanitation were not observed in the markets, and the Member therefore suggested that, before the opening of a market, the site ought to be approved by the Sanitary Commissioner. The practice of opening a private market on an unsuitable site on the ground that it would benefit a particular individual should be stopped.

Under the Rules, the licensee of a private market was required to make provision for drinking water, to put up latrines and to make proper drainage arrangements. None of those provisions were being insisted on in the case of Government markets, most of which stood in urgent need of improvements. The Monday Market at Eraniel was a striking example. There were no walls enclosing it, nor was there any water convenience there, with the result that even drinking water had to be purchased. Traffic was not possible through the road on market days and tolls were being levied on the carts. The Member, therefore, siggested that 75 per cent. of the income from such markets should be spent on their improvement.

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The Member then referred to the time when the market was being held, and said that the transactions in some markets were commenced and closed before sunrise, so as to enable those who brought stolen articles to dispose of them at half their value. As instances he mentioned the Manalikkara and Mekkamandapam markets in the Kalkulam taluk. Such practices should be stopped and it should be ruled that no market should be held except between 8 A. M. and sunset.

The Member's next topic was the oppression of agriculturists by the *desakavalkars* and the Police. *Desakavalkars* were originally chosen by agriculturists for their own safety as well as the safety of their crops, and they were remunerated in kind by the ryots. The reorganisation of the Police Department had brought the *desakavalkars* under the control of the local Police Inspectors; and they had now become so many instruments of oppression under the Police that it was necessary to divest the Police of control over them.

Lastly, the Member represented that the weights and measures used in the markets were spurious and that standard weights and measures were to be seldom found. That defect also stood in need of early remedy.

Dewan's reply.—You gave me no idea of what you were going to say. You have thus deprived me of an opportunity of giving you a detailed reply. I shall, however, give you a general reply.

You may remember that the Markets Regulation was passed in the year 1092; but, as you yourself say, it was brought into force only in the year 1097. You must expect that, when Regulations are newly introduced, it will take time for the Government to work them to their fullest extent. You cannot expect all markets to be improved the moment the Markets Regulation is introduced. It takes time. We have to wait for reports and estimates, and will have to scrutinise them and make provision for the necessary works in the order of their urgency. You say that I should visit some of these markets, and that, if I visited them, I would find the levy of fees in them to be an oppressive measure. I may tell you that *I have visited* evening bazaars—and particularly the evening bazaar at Parassala. There I spent over half an hour and made detailed enquiries, and I saw with my own eyes that the fees levied were only in accordance with the schedule under the Markets Regulation.

Member.—It might have been so when the Dewan was personally present there.

Dewan.—After all, we can know directly only what takes place before our own eyes. All the women—the old women, the young women and the children,—said that the fee levied was two *cash* and I saw no reason for doubting them. However, the matter is under correspondence. I have asked the Land Revenue Commissioner to make an enquiry and report. His report has not been received yet.

You criticise certain provisions of the Markets Regulation. The remedy lies in the amendment of the Regulation. You say that 75 per cent. of the income from the markets should be spent on the markets themselves. Though I do not accept the principle that money derived from a particular source should all be spent on the improvement of that source, Government will improve these markets gradually.

You next refer to *desakaval* and the Police. That is a matter on which you should address local officers, who will take the necessary steps to see that the people are not harassed. There are the local Magistrates and the police; and if they do not discharge their duties, you may bring the matter to the notice of higher authorities.

Standard weights and measures have been provided in the rules, and if there are breaches of the law, punishments have been also provided for them. People who break the law, when detected, are punished. These are matters of administrative detail in regard to which Government cannot be interfering every day. Government have laid down the necessary rules, and they expect them to be obeyed. If there are breaches of these rules, they must be brought to the notice of the local officers, and, if these authorities are immobile, their indifference should be brought to the notice of the higher authorities.

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